



**A Message  
From  
The  
Secretary**

Over the past several weeks, Kansas has been experiencing a mumps outbreak along with several other states in the Midwest, reminding us all of the importance of getting our children immunized. In addition, cases of measles have now been reported in Kansas, and this is an illness we seldom see anymore in the U.S. due to the effectiveness of vaccinations. While

there are many variables to investigate in these outbreaks, it's an important reminder to us all that vaccinations are extremely beneficial for our children and ourselves. KDHE recommends everyone to check their medical history to ensure they have received both of the recommended measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccinations.

In an effort to better serve the public, KDHE has unveiled a new food safety Web site to help educate Kansans about safe food handling, restaurant inspections, and industry information. The Web site, [www.KSFoodSafety.org](http://www.KSFoodSafety.org) will be a valuable resource whether you are looking for information about how long to refrigerate leftovers, are concerned about the cleanliness of a restaurant, or want to open a restaurant in Kansas.

A recent national announcement regarding the limitation of high calorie beverages in schools across the country will mean the opportunity for healthier Kansas students. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation reached an agreement with representatives of major soft drink makers and the American Beverage Association. The agreement will limit portion sizes and only allow lower calorie and nutritious beverages to be sold in schools. The plan complements the Healthy Kansas initiative, which is focusing on improving the health of children in schools, adults in the workplace and seniors in the community. By encouraging all Kansans to increase their physical activity, improve nutrition and eliminate tobacco use, we encourage everyone to take the Healthy Kansas pledge to improve your health. It is available at [www.healthykansas.org](http://www.healthykansas.org).

Recently, KDHE highlighted several successful recycling and composting facilities in a tour around the state. The facilities had received grant funding from the agency. The Governor's Solid Waste Grants Advisory Committee and several KDHE Bureau of Waste Management staff visited sites in Olathe, Pittsburg, Greensburg, Cimarron, Wakeeney, Concordia, and Manhattan, just to name a few. KDHE will be working with the Grants Advisory Committee regarding future grant recommendations. We appreciate all the work of these facility operators to keep Kansas beautiful!

Be Well,